

Appl. No. 10/622,054  
Amdt. Dated June 29, 2005  
Reply to Office action of March 29, 2005

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted responsive to the Official Action mailed March 29, 2005. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the aforesaid action, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, based upon an apparent typographical error contained therein. Claim 4 has been amended to correct this error, and is now proper under 35 USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. In connection with this claim, the Examiner has also suggested that the conditions at which the permeability is measured be entered in the claim. Claim 4 and also claim 12 have been amended to state that this permeability is at standard conditions as set forth in the Specification, and the paragraph in the Specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to indicate that standard conditions are indeed the conventional and customary 0.5 inch w.g.

Based upon the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are proper under 35 USC 112.

The Examiner also rejected the claims of this application as

anticipated over three separate prior art references, namely, Fanselow et al., Aston and Linnersten.

The present invention is drawn to synthetic filter material which is embossed to provide embossments or grooves relative to the plane of the material which are both greater in depth than the thickness of the material and greater than 1.5mm in depth. This structure is as shown, for example, in Figure 3. In accordance with the present invention, forming these embossments in synthetic filter material results in an embossment having a much greater depth than previously possible, without causing any rupture or disruption of the filter material.

The features of the present invention are clearly set forth in the claims, wherein the independent claims have been amended to further specify that the embossment has a depth which is greater than the thickness of the material, and that the embossment is formed in a planar surface of the material. Support for these claim amendments is clearly set forth in the application as filed, for example in Figure 3.

Turning to the art applied by the Examiner, Fanselow et al. and Linnersten are both drawn to structures wherein filter

material is corrugated. This is very different from the claimed subject matter which has a planar surface and an embossment formed on the planar surface. Specifically, Fanselow et al. does not show a planar surface with an embossment formed therein. Rather, the entire surface has been formed into the channels of that structure. This type of structure is very different from that set forth in the claims of the present application. Further, formation of such a structure is not accompanied by the problems encountered when forming an embossment in a substantially planar material as done in accordance with the present invention.

This same reasoning holds true in connection with the material disclosed in Linnersten, which likewise discloses a corrugated material, and not a substantially planar material having a planar surface in which an embossment is formed.

The Aston prior art reference has no drawings which show the dimple structure referred to by the Examiner in applying this prior art. Rather, only a text description is given as set forth in example 3, at column 3, line 62 through column 4, line 6. From the portion of the text of Aston, it is clear that the structure set forth therein is also very different from that of

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the present application. Specifically, the material in question has a thickness of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and is provided with dimples having a depth of only  $\frac{1}{16}$  of an inch. Thus, this embossing is much less than the thickness of the material. From a cursory review of the present application, it is clear that the embossings have a depth which is much greater than the thickness of the material.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have both been amended to specify that the embossment has a depth which is greater than the thickness of the material, and Aston clearly does not make any such disclosure or suggestion.

Based upon the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are patentable over all art of record, and early and favorable action is therefore respectfully solicited.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made to address the issues raised in the aforesaid action and place this application in condition for allowance. If the Examiner upon considering this response believes that there are issues remaining that can be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned.

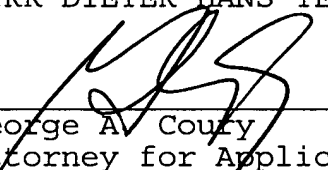
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It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this paper. If any fee is due, please charge same to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

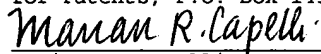
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Date: June 29, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on May 25, 2005

  
Marian R. Capelli